



Human Relations Commission  
P.O. Box 27210  
Tucson, Arizona 85726-7210  
(520) 791-4213 (Voice)  
(520) 791-2639 (TDD)  
(520) 791-4017 (FAX)

## **Tucson Human Relations Commission MINUTES**

The regular meeting of the Tucson Human Relations Commission was called to order by Chair Glenn P. Howell on **Wednesday, June 11, 2008**, at 5:30 p.m., in the Mayor and Council Conference Room, 1st Floor, City Hall, 255 W. Alameda, Tucson, Arizona.

### **1. Call to Order/Roll Call**

#### Members Present:

Victor Flores  
Joe Yee, Vice Chair  
Glenn Howell, Chair  
Sat Bir Kaur Khalsa, Treasurer  
Al Whitehurst

#### Representing:

Ward 1  
Ward 2  
Ward 5  
Ward 6  
GLBT Commission

#### Members Absent:

Martha Gabusi Taylor

#### Representing:

Mayor

#### Others Present:

Rolanda Mazeika, Recording Secretary, City Clerk's Office

### **2. Approval of Minutes – Regular Minutes of May 14, 2008**

It was moved by Vice Chair Yee, duly seconded, and carried by a voice vote of 5 to 0 (Commissioner Taylor absent), to approve the regular minutes of May 14, 2008.

### **3. Chairman's Summary of Current Events – Information Only**

No report was given.

### **4. Upcoming Events - Attendees and Alternates**

Commissioner Flores announced the Tucson Juneteenth Festival was coming up. Chair Howell suggested the commission reach out to the Festival Committee to offer support or assistance in the future.

### **6. Requests for Financial Support**

(This item taken out of order)

#### **a. United Nations Center (Commissioner Khalsa)**

It was moved by Commissioner Whitehurst, duly seconded, to approve two hundred dollars and a letter of support to the United Nations Association of Southern Arizona for the Hope in Healing: UN Day in Observance of Torture Victims.

Chair Howell asked for a roll call vote. Upon roll call, the results were:

Aye: Commissioners Flores, Khalsa and Whitehurst;  
Vice Chair Yee and Chair Howell

Nay: None

Absent: Commissioner Taylor

Motion to approve two hundred dollars and a letter of support to the United Nations Association of Southern Arizona for the Hope in Healing: UN Day in Observance of Torture Victims passed by a roll call vote of 5 to 0.

## **5. Treasurer's Report**

It was moved by Chair Howell, duly seconded, to approve the Treasurer's report.

Chair Howell asked for a roll call vote. Upon roll call, the results were:

Aye: Commissioners Flores, Khalsa and Whitehurst;  
Vice Chair Yee and Chair Howell

Nay: None

Absent: Commissioner Taylor

Motion to approve the report passed by a roll call vote of 5 to 0.

### **a. Reallocation of Funds**

It was moved by Commissioner Whitehurst, duly seconded, to approve purchase of a combination of supplies consisting of a laptop computer, audio/visual equipment, and accessories up to eight hundred and ninety dollars.

Chair Howell asked for a roll call vote. Upon roll call, the results were:

Aye: Commissioners Flores, Khalsa and Whitehurst;  
Vice Chair Yee and Chair Howell

Nay: None

Absent: Commissioner Taylor

Motion to approve purchase of a combination of supplies which may consist of a laptop computer, audio/visual equipment, and accessories up to eight hundred and ninety dollars passed by a roll call vote of 5 to 0.

Chair Howell asked that use of the equipment purchased be extended to the GLBT Commission as needed.

## **7. Subcommittee Reports**

### **a. Awards**

Chair Howell announced he was in contact with someone who had volunteered the use of her house for the Rabbi Bilgray Make a Difference and Stanley Feldman awards event to be held in Fiscal Year 2009. He said he had also contacted the Tucson Urban League on a possible partnership.

Ms. Mazeika warned that liquor could not be served at the event, the venue had to be accessible to the public and also had to be ADA compliant.

Vice Chair Yee also stated they needed to be mindful of seating capacity, bathroom accessibility, and parking.

Commissioner Khalsa requested this item be placed on the commission's August agenda. Chair Howell agreed to continue discussions with the potential host and report back to the commission in August.

### **c. Ray Davies Student Service Awards**

(This item taken out of order)

Chair Howell said the commission needed to begin planning for next year's event and he was already soliciting donations for the 2009 awards event.

Vice Chair Yee recommended the commission follow up with former commissioner Timothy Dunne regarding the laptop donation from Pima Federal Credit Union and also send a thank you letter as was directed at the May meeting.

Chair Howell suggested the commission come up with creative ideas for the awards in 2009. He asked Ms. Mazeika to inquire what kind of donations the commission could receive and he also suggested the commission set up a separate awards review committee.

Vice Chair Yee suggested the commission discuss this item when Commissioner Taylor was available to lead the discussion.

### **b. Public Relations and Collaboration**

Vice Chair Yee announced he had contacted the Pan Asian Community Alliance of Tucson but had not yet received a response.

Commissioner Khalsa announced she had attended the Tucson Freedom Seder wrap up meeting. She asked Ms. Mazeika to report back to the commission at a future meeting on the possibility of disbursing information to youths who were nominated for HRC awards.

Chair Howell suggested the commission contact the League of United Latin American Citizens regarding a possible collaboration.

### **d. Retreat**

Chair Howell suggested the commission hold its retreat in September.

**e. Advisory Positions**

Vice Chair Yee announced Yahya Yuksel and Jolee Follet had contacted him regarding the commission's advisory positions.

Commissioner Khalsa offered to contact Mr. Yuksel and Ms. Follet regarding the advisory positions and what the position would entail.

**8. Election of Officers**

It was moved by Chair Howell, duly seconded, and carried by a voice vote of 5 to 0 (Commissioner Taylor absent) to defer the election of officers until the August 2008 meeting.

**9. MLK Essay Contest**

Commissioner Khalsa announced she had met with Clarence Boykins regarding the MLK Essay Contest and he had suggested they work with schools to promote the contest. She asked for volunteers from the commission to begin work on the contest in July 2008.

Chair Howell suggested Commissioner Khalsa organize a subcommittee comprised of non-commission members to review essays and make recommendations for the winners.

Vice Chair Yee stated that according to the HRC's authorizing resolution, non-commission members were allowed to serve on committees, but standing committees should be chaired by a commission member.

Chair Howell asked Commissioner Khalsa to outline the responsibilities of the MLK subcommittee.

Commissioner Khalsa stated the subcommittee was responsible for organizing the contest, setting the contest rules, and judging essays. She also stated the subcommittee should meet no later than July 2008 to begin preparation for the 2009 MLK Essay Contest and if no volunteers were found to sit on the committee, she would contact Mr. Boykins and explain the commission would not be involved in the 2009 contest.

Ms. Mazeika was asked to confirm Vice Chair Yee's interpretation of the HRC's resolution with the City Clerk's office and find out what the process was to hold such meetings. If Chair Yee's interpretation was found to be accurate, each commissioner was to find one volunteer to sit on the MLK subcommittee and would send contact information to Ms. Mazeika.

**10. Reports from Other Commissions**

**a. Commission on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender (GLBT) Issues**

Commissioner Whitehurst announced the GLBT had a recent change in leadership. The new co-chairs were Cindy Jordan-Nowe and John-Peter Wilhite.

Chair Howell asked if the recent California ruling on same-sex marriage was having any local impact. Commissioner Whitehurst responded that the GLBT Commission would be watching to see if any problems arose.

**11. Call to Audience**

No one spoke.

**12. Future Agenda Items – Information Only**

Future agenda items would include the distribution of materials to youths nominated for HRC awards, Martin Luther King, Jr. Essay Contest standing committee, vacancies, review of the commission's bylaws, Awards program event, retreat, and election of officers.

**13. Adjournment 6:59 p.m.**